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What is Your Life?

Oh, what is life? 'Tis like a flower
That blossoms—and is gone,
It flourisheth its little hour,
With all its beauty on:
Death comes—and like a wintry day
It cuts the lovely flower away.

Oh, what is life? 'Tis like the bow
That glistens in the sky;
We love to see its colors glow,
But while we look they die:
Life falls as soon; today 'tis here,
Tomorrow it may disappear.

Lord, what is life? If spent with thee,
In humble praise and prayer;
How long or short our life may be
We feel no anxious care.
Though life depart, our joys shall last,
When life and all its joys are past.

Progressiveisms.

Our Paper.—Number 38 of the EVANGELIST is before me and contents noted. It brings us glad tidings from the field as well as words of admonition. When we see with what eagerness we, who enjoy church privileges and brotherly associations, devour its contents, we can partly realize what a harbinger of salvation and gladness it must be to those who are isolated. Let our able brethren contribute freely to its columns. Make it truly, as its name indicates, the Brethren Evangelist. Brethren, write for the encouragement of the discouraged, the elevation of the down-trodden, the edification of the weak, and the comfort of the discomfitted and bereft. Write, write, write. Write what thou seest and send it unto the churches.

Church News.—The regular meetings at each place in our charge are well attended. On last Lord's day, our Bro. J. B. Rittgers filled our appointments at the Bethel church. The Brethren speak highly of his sermons. A few weeks since we preached to a large congregation in Bro. Beery's barn, near Bremen, O. Our first experience in barn preaching. Verily, it matters not where we meet or under what circumstances for the worship of God. Blessings always attend devout services whether conducted in Indian jungles, in the gilded cathedrals of Rome, St. Petersburg or London; whether in the wigwam or the tabernacle; wherever it may be, for, if Christ be with us and for us who can be against us? It did me good to stand up for Christ under the heavy timbers of a barn built half a century ago.

The Sabbath School.—The Sabbath School at Bethel under the efficient management of Bro. C. E. Deffenbaugh is proving a success. Though late in organizing, it is making up for lost time. A sister said to me recently concerning this school, "Let none say we are doing no good." At Mt. Zion the school is also flourishing. The schools are not large at either place, but brethren, remember success does not depend upon numbers but upon the interest taken and the actual work done—tilling, sowing and pruning yields fruit for the husbandmen—golden sheaves of grain for the Master's garner. Let the Sabbath School work go on. Brother, sister, take up last week's EVANGELIST and re-read what brethren Mason and Replogle say about this glorious work.

Read This.—I can not close without saying a word about our school. Now for the sake of the success of our church, do not say that the College matter has become stale to you. I have received a latter from a dear brother who said he had lost all interest in the school, and did not care whether or not we kept the College. I know this is the feeling of many. Perhaps they do not wish to be ungrateful. A few of us younger brethren have taken up the cause of our College. We have labored unremittingly. We have spared neither time nor effort, nor have we relaxed our efforts for a moment. We have not only spent our time but our summer's wages. We met last week, and as a result of our efforts we had gathered $4000, lacking about $2500 to meet the first payment. We still have hope. We still make another effort. As a Board of Incorporators we did all in our power, yet in the face of all this we receive letters from brethren (?) intimating that we are a set of swindlers getting rich. O, ingratitude, and from those from whom sympathy should come. You don't care whether we have the College or not. Well, if we lose it, it will be because of indifference. Do you care for the Brethren church, the church of your heart's choice? We have her interest at heart. Her welfare prompted us to act. You don't care? Well, you will care perhaps when you have the taunts of others thrown in your face. "Hem, I wouldn't give much for a church that claims to be Progressive, and yet lets the only College she has pass from her hands for a few paltry dollars!" Such as the above is hurled at us already. You will care perhaps when the church has lost many of her best young ministers and lay members. You may care when the church receives a "backset" from the effects of which she will not recover for fifty years, as a friend expressed it. You may care when it is too late. God help you to care now while it is yet time. As a Board we shall make one final effort. A few more weeks will forever decide. This item is written in all charity. It is the truth, and we know whereof we speak. We look to the Pa. and Ind. conventions with hope. Oh, for victory in the midst of defeat!

J. ALLEN MILLER.

Prattville, Michigan.

Sept. 21.—I have been here at Prattville nearly two weeks telling the old story of the cross. This country is settled principally with people from the New England states and Canada. They are as a general thing morally good people. Religiously, they are very much divided. Pedobaptists of nearly all the numerous isms are represented here, also some single immersionists of various isms. But there are few that know anything about the Brethren doctrine.

One old lady told me that when she lived in New York, there was a great revival held there. Many people were converted, and they had the privilege to choose any mode of baptism they preferred. Among the converts was a lady formerly from Pennsylvania that requested them to let her kneel in the water, and then dip her three times face foremost. This lady said they all thought it a very strange thing that the woman should choose such an eccentric baptism, but the woman insisted until it was done. "But," said she, "the people nearly all made fun of her."

Well, the old lady, our informant, has also concieved the propriety of trine immersion, and has given an overt expression of her conviction and now stands an examplary member of the little Brethren church at Prattville. But some folks here call our doctrine, "new doctrine." Some look upon the ordinances of the New Testament as "things of the past," and only regard the Saviour's teachings as a history. Others seem to think "Jesus paid it all" and turned Adam's race loose to enjoy the pleasures of life, and still there are others that it is doubtful whether they ever took thought whether they are really human beings or whether they are some other kind of bipeds.

Our late meeting (now in progress) in the dancing hall began with very small congregations, so much so, that we almost got struck with a little spell of the "blues," but when I attended the United Brethren's service in the same hall last Sunday forenoon, and the Congregationalists, Lord's Supper (?) in their fine church at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and neither had as large a congregation as we had, I became slightly convalescent. Although rain has checked our congregations several evenings, and hindered the service entirely two evenings, the congregation is enlarging with every service, and the interest is deepening, and we are hopeful for good results. If we cannot reap an immediate crop, we shall remember that the Bible teaches that there is a time for all things, "seed time and harvest," and a time to sow, and a time to reap. The Congregational minister was in attendence last evening, and Christian like, helped to conduct the services.

I make my home at Bro. Jacob Keisers while here. Bro. Jacob and his noble wife are wrapped up in the Master's cause, and if good wishes and energy (and that stuff that is, if not properly utilized, but filthy lucre, but it judiciously appropriated will be a power for good, and for the salvation of souls) will accomplish the desired end, there will yet be a strong Brethren church established here. So far, the work has been like the College debt, the struggle has been long and hard, but we are sincerely hopeful that the efforts in both cases will yet be crowned with victory.

We will hold communion services here tomorrow evening and preach over Sunday, then go to Indiana to attend the convention.

J. H. SWIHART.

Dayton, Ohio.

Sunday afternoon, Sept. 9th, Bro. S. Brumbaugh, M. D., occupied the Brethren pulpit in this city. His remarks were pointed and the congregation spiritually edified. The following Monday evening, after spending a few hours among friends, on returning home, to my great surprise, I found the Dr. had congregated nearly the entire church in our front room, ready at a moment's notice to bring me to terms for my wilful absence. No sooner had I entered an adjoining room than there came such a volley of packages, weighing from eight ounces to many pounds each, procured by loving hearts and willing hands, from various directions and in such abundance that I was almost hid underneath the vast accumulation of tokens of brotherly kindness. The room now had the appearance of a village grocery. Presently the Dr., in behalf of those present, came forward holding in his hand a parcel having some resemblance to his text at the S. S. convention recently held at Fairview, O.

After a short telling speech addressed to myself, with the request that I open it immediately, he handed me the package. Not having the remotest idea what it contained, I opened it very cautiously. After taking off a few papers, to my utter astonishment I found the contents to be dollars, halves, quarters, dimes, etc., worth its weight in solid silver. Verily, a practical sermon on Christian liberality. May the Lord abundantly bless every member of this congregation.

The Dayton City church is a whit behind none in spiritual growth and Christian endeavor. May we ever abide in the vine.

Saturday evening the 15th, we held a communion at the residence of Bro. Aaron Lucas, 1557 West Second street. The church was well represented. It was the first time for many of the younger members. The occasion was indeed a source of great social and spiritual enjoyment. Dr. Brumbaugh furnished the wine, prepared the same day from a basket of grapes donated. Bro. P. J. Brown presided. Many thanks to Bro. Brown and the Dr.; also to Bro. and sister A. Beeghly for the interest manifested in this service, as well as to Bro. and sister A. Lucas for the use of their house.

The following Sunday afternoon Bro. Mason occupied the Dayton City pulpit, and gave us a very instructive lesson from Luke 19:6. Thank you. Behold how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

S. KIEHL.

Sept. 22, 1888.

Montana, Kansas.

Communion meetings at Centerview, Mo., on Monday evening, Sept. 3rd, continued till Sept. 13th. Organized a Brethren church with eight members at Centerview. All the members in Johnson County, (sixteen in number) are expected for the time being to attach themselves to this congregation. We expect to open other points in the county in the near future, and we have reason to believe, with success. We have arranged to preach at Centerview on the second Sunday of each month during our coming ecclesiastical year, and on Monday evening after in Warrensburg. Had one service in Warrensburg on Friday evening, Sept. 14th. At this place we occupy the pulpit of Ex-Parson Brooks, candidate for the vice presidency on the Prohibition ticket. We are pretty near three-thirds tempted to vote for Bro. Brooks, believing that the moral issue is the greatest issue involved even in politics. For "righteousness exalteth a nation, while sin is a reproach to any people."

We have also engaged with the Brethren at Adrian, Mo., for another year. Two-thirds of our Sunday time is now occupied besides some week day time. Should any one within reasonable reach and at reasonable remuneration desire the other one-fourth of our time they can correspond with us at Montana, Kan.

We nearly forgot to mention that at Centerview Bro. ——Ship was ordained to the deacon's office. At Adrian, Bro. Samuel Lentz was ordained to same office. On Saturday evening, Sept. 15th, we had a very enjoyable communion service near Adrian. Arrived home Sept. 19th. Found family well. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

W. J. H. BAUMAN.

Uniontown, Pa.

The good work is moving along in the Middle Run church. A week's meeting was held beginning Sept. 2. Would have held longer but, for previous arrangements. The church was revived and one came out on the Lord's side. During the meeting arrangements were made for a communion, which was accordingly held the 22nd inst. After the afternoon services four came forward and were immersed. After baptism Bro. J. D. Gans and Bro. A. J. Sterling preached to a large and attentive audience. There were forty-five who partook of the emblematic feast, and everything passed off very pleasantly. The prospects are flattering, and may God's blessing rest upon us.

W. G. GANS.

Sept. 24, 1888.

Buckingham's Dye for the Whiskers is in one preparation, and never fails to color the beard a beautiful brown or black of a natural shade.

Ashland to Columbus and return only $2.25. Tickets will be on sale Sept. 29th, Oct. 4th, 10th, 14th and 19th, and good for return four days from date of sale. (3 wks)